

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for establishing a call with a station using a transcoder, comprising:

communicating protocol capabilities to a station in
5 response to initiation of a call, wherein the protocol capabilities comprise a protocol capability of at least one remotely located transcoder;

initiating a transfer of the call to the transcoder to establish a first link between the station and the
10 transcoder; and

initiating establishment of a second link with the transcoder to enable media exchange with the station using the protocol capability of the transcoder.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein communicating protocol capabilities is performed using a peer-to-peer signalling protocol.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein communicating
20 protocol capabilities is performed using H.323 signalling protocol.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein initiating a transfer of the call comprises:
25 initiating a consult transfer;
receiving a session identifier from the transcoder;
and
communicating the session identifier to the station.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein initiating establishment of a second link with the transcoder comprises communicating to the transcoder a call setup request having the session identifier.

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6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the protocol capability of the transcoder matches a protocol capability of the station;
and

10 selecting the transcoder from a plurality of transcoders based on a priority.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein media comprises voice information and the protocol capability of the
15 transcoder comprises a voice compression protocol.

8. A communication device, comprising:
an interface operable to communicate with a network;
a memory operable to store a protocol capability of
at least one remotely located transcoder; and

5 a processor coupled to the interface and the memory,
the processor operable, in response to initiation of a
call, to generate a first signal to communicate the
protocol capability of the transcoder to a station, the
processor further operable to generate a second signal to
10 initiate transfer of the call to the transcoder, the
processor further operable to generate a third signal to
initiate communication with the transcoder to enable
media exchange with the station using the protocol
capability of the transcoder.

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9. The communication device of Claim 8, wherein
the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal
comprise peer-to-peer signalling protocol.

20 10. The communication device of Claim 8, wherein
the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal
comply with H.323 signalling protocol.

25 11. The communication device of Claim 8, wherein
the second signal comprises a consult transfer to the
transcoder that produces a session identifier.

30 12. The communication device of Claim 11, wherein
the third signal comprises a call setup request having
the session identifier.

13. The communication device of Claim 8, wherein media comprises voice information and the protocol capability of the transcoder comprises a voice compression protocol.

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14. The communication device of Claim 8, wherein the memory comprises a plurality of entries, each entry associated with a corresponding transcoder and specifying an address of the transcoder and the protocol capability
10 of the transcoder.

15. The communication device of Claim 8, wherein each entry in the memory further comprises a priority for selection of the corresponding transcoder.

16. A method for establishing a communication session between a first station and a second station, the method comprising:

establishing a session identifier associated with
5 the communication session;

establishing a first link between the first station and the transcoder using the session identifier;

establishing a second link between the second station and the transcoder using the session identifier;
10 and

exchanging media between the first station and the second station.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein establishing a
15 session identifier associated with the communication session comprises:

receiving a consult transfer from the first station;
and

communicating a session identifier associated with
20 the consult transfer to the first station.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein establishing a first link comprises receiving a call setup request having the session identifier.
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19. The method of Claim 16, wherein establishing a second link comprises receiving a transfer notification having the session identifier.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein exchanging media comprises:

associating the first link and the second link using the session identifier;

5 transcoding first information received from the first link for communication to the second link; and

transcoding second information received from the second link for communication to the first link.

10 21. The method of Claim 16, wherein the steps of establishing a first link and establishing a second link are performed using peer-to-peer signalling protocols.

15 22. The method of Claim 16, wherein the steps of establishing a first link and establishing a second link are performed using H.323 signalling protocols.

23. Logic encoded in media for establishing a call with a station using a transcoder, the logic operable to perform the following steps:

communicating protocol capabilities to a station in
5 response to initiation of a call, wherein the protocol capabilities comprise a protocol capability of at least one remotely located transcoder;

initiating a transfer of the call to the transcoder to establish a first link between the station and the
10 transcoder; and

initiating establishment of a second link with the transcoder to enable media exchange with the station using the protocol capability of the transcoder.

24. The logic of Claim 23, wherein communicating protocol capabilities is performed using a peer-to-peer signalling protocol.
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25. The logic of Claim 23, wherein communicating protocol capabilities is performed using H.323 signalling protocol.
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26. The logic of Claim 23, wherein initiating a transfer of the call comprises:
25 initiating a consult transfer;
receiving a session identifier from the transcoder;
and
communicating the session identifier to the station.

27. The logic of Claim 26, wherein initiating establishment of a second link with the transcoder comprises communicating to the transcoder a call setup request having the session identifier.

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28. The logic of Claim 23, further comprising:

determining whether the protocol capability of the transcoder matches a protocol capability of the station;
and

10 selecting the transcoder from a plurality of transcoders based on a priority.

29. The logic of Claim 23, wherein media comprises voice information and the protocol capability of the
15 transcoder comprises a voice compression protocol.

30. An apparatus for establishing a call with a station using a transcoder, comprising:

means for communicating protocol capabilities to a station in response to initiation of a call, wherein the
5 protocol capabilities comprise a protocol capability of at least one remotely located transcoder;

means for initiating a transfer of the call to the transcoder to establish a first link between the station and the transcoder; and

10 means for initiating establishment of a second link with the transcoder to enable media exchange with the station using the protocol capability of the transcoder.

31. The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein means for
15 communicating protocol capabilities is performed using a peer-to-peer signalling protocol.

32. The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein means for initiating a transfer of the call comprises:

20 means for initiating a consult transfer;

means for receiving a session identifier from the transcoder; and

means for communicating the session identifier to the station.

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33. The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein media comprises voice information and the protocol capability of the transcoder comprises a voice compression protocol.